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## CBTU President Praises High Court Ruling on Marriage Equality

Statement by Terry Melvin  
President, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

Today's decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) shows the American judicial system at its best at the highest level – ensuring equality for all couples under the law.

The legal victory we celebrate today adds yet another pillar to the civil rights precedents that began in the 1950's when the high court struck down discriminatory "separate but equal" laws in public education.

Now as then, there is still more to do, still more laws to change, still more hearts to win. But the tide of history is with those of us who believe in equality and justice, who believe a better world is still possible, if we are willing to fight for it – from the streets to the Supreme Court.

CBTU also calls on Congress to pass legislation that fully restores the Voting Rights Act, which was mortally ambushed by this same Supreme Court earlier this week. We applaud Attorney General Eric Holder's strong warning to state legislators: "Let me be very clear: we will not hesitate to take swift enforcement action—using every legal tool that remains to us—against any jurisdiction that seeks to take advantage of the Supreme Court's ruling by hindering eligible citizens' full and free exercise of the franchise."

CBTU will continue to expand access to the voting booth and full citizenship.

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